

CLASSIFICATION

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Albania

DATE DISTR. 25 March 1949

SUBJECT Anti-Government Units in Albania;
Soviet Mission

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1. Marshal Tito released the Kosove Moslems from prison in order to form an anti-Hoxha Government at Dhivri. This government, headed by Midhat Frasheri, has organized military units which entered Albania and "occupied" the Qaf'e Shtames mountain range. The Albanian Army unsuccessfully attempted to recapture this range, after which it organized the area defensively, mining the Zog bridge on the Kruje-Qaf'e Thanës highway. Albanian forces were brought up from southern Albania to repel attacks of the Frasheri units.
2. There is an increase in activity by the resistance groups elsewhere in Albania. The Government increased the period of military service from two to four years.
3. The Hoxha - General Tuk Jakova altercation over military policy at a recent cabinet session resulted in a pistol wound for Interior Minister General Memet Selmi (who intervened to separate them) and the arrest of Jakova.
4. Enver Hoxha boarded a destroyer in Vlone harbor and was not observed to leave the ship when it returned, thus giving rise to report he may have gone to the Soviet Union. (News reports of 21 March state Hoxha presently in Moscow.)
5. Up to mid-February, no Soviet troops landed in Albania. The Soviet mission was increased by 40 to 50 persons, mostly technicians, raising the mission total to approximately 200. The arrival of Soviet crews in late January to man Italian reparations warships may have given rise to reports of troop arrivals.
6. There is no information to indicate the arrival in Albania of large quantities of war material or foodstuffs, or the construction of underground airdromes.
7. The old Italian batteries on Saseno Island is being repaired and permanent trenches are being constructed. Twenty bases for anti-aircraft guns are also being built.

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

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